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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**WABASH VALLEY INMATE SENTENCED FOR MAILING  
FAKE ANTHRAX LETTER TO U.S. COURTHOUSE IN  
INDIANAPOLIS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that PATRICK PRIDE, 31, an inmate at the Wabash Valley Correctional Center, was sentenced to seventy-seven (77) months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Michael P. McCuskey following PRIDE's guilty plea to mailing threatening communications. This case was the result of a investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

According to facts previously presented at PRIDE's guilty plea hearing, on July 22, 2004, an envelope was received in the Clerk's Office of the United States District Court in Indianapolis. The envelope contained a white powdery substance; it also contained a letter, addressed to the Clerk of the Court, which contained threatening and vulgar language, and

which stated that the powdery substance was anthrax. The United States Courthouse was closed for a brief period of time while investigation was conducted. Investigation ultimately determined that the letter was sent by PRIDE from the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility Special Housing Unit, where PRIDE was serving a term of imprisonment on a state sentence. It was ultimately determined that the white powdery substance was in fact soap from PRIDE's housing unit at the prison.

Judge Michael P. McCuskey, Chief Judge in the Central District of Illinois, was appointed by the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago to try the case, after the District Court in Indianapolis recused itself based on a potential conflict of interest.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Susan Heckard Dowd, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McCuskey also imposed 3 years supervised release following PRIDE's release from imprisonment.

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